

DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INTERIM

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1944.





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DORSET AND BREDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.INTERIMANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHFOR THE YEAR1943.Staff of the Public Health Department.Medical Officer of Health:

WILLIAM HOGG, M.D., M.P.H.S., J.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.A.S.H.

Clinical Staff:

+ O.N. LITTLE + J.M. PERKINS. (Resigned 9.12.44.)

+ P.M. RUDHALL. (Appointed 11.12.44.)

(Temporary Appointments.)

Telephone - Ross 244.

County Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.Sanitary Inspector, Sanitary Surveyor and Housing
Designated Officer:

DAVID J. FRANCIS, C.R.S.I., H.S.I.L.

Telephone - Peterschurch 241.

Urchay House,
Peterschurch,
Hereford.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the work of the Department for the year 1944.

The figures included in the Report refer to the civilian population only, and I am pleased to inform you that the health of the inhabitants of the District appeared to be good and the incidence of notifiable disease was very low with the exception of Scarlet Fever of a mild type.

I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Council has continued to give me in the discharge of my duties throughout the year.

It will be appreciated that I have received assistance in the preparation of this Report from my colleagues who have also given me much assistance throughout the year. My thanks are therefore due to Mr. F. Cress, Clerk to the Council, Miss Sayce, Financial Officer to the Council and Mr. D.J. Francis, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for such assistance.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

William Hogg.

October 1945.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA:

Area (in acres) ... v	86,043
No. of inhabited houses on 31.12.44.	2,145
Rateable Value	£23,477
Area represented by a Penny Rate	£104
Registrar General's Estimated Resident Population	7,410

Extract from Vital Statistics of the Year:

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population ...	19.9
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	20.0
Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population (crude)	13.6

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

Heading No.	...	Puerperal	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Live &
		Sepsis		<u>Stillbirths.</u>
Heading No.29	...		Nil.	Nil.
Heading No.30	...	Other Puerperal Causes	<u>Nil.</u>	<u>Nil.</u>

Death Rate of Infants under One Year:-

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	61.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	53.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	125.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	18
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea. (Under 2 Years)	Nil

The district is entirely rural in character, there being a considerable area of land and pasture for cattle and sheep. There are also tracts of woodland which combined with the physical characters give the district great beauty and charm.

Population:-

The Registrar General's Estimate of the Resident population is 7,401 which shows little variation with the same figure for recent years. This is equivalent to a density of 1 person per 11.6 acres which shows the low population of this district. The average number of acres per inhabited house is 40 and the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.5.

Live Births:-

There were 147 live births during the year giving a rate of 19.9 which is higher than that of England and Wales (17.6). The male live births were 80 and female live births were 67. There were 16 illegitimate live births which is 10.8% of the total live births.

Stillbirths:-

There were three still births registered during the year, 2 being female and 1 male. This represents a rate of 0.40 per 1,000 of the population and is less than the corresponding figure for England and Wales (0.50).

Deaths:-

The adjusted figures for deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers are 59 males and 42 females, giving a total of 101. This represents a crude death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 population which is slightly greater than the corresponding figure for England and Wales (11.6).

The following table indicates the chief causes of death:-

Causes of Death.	Deaths.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	1	4
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-
Cancer (all forms)	9	9	18
Diabetes	-	1	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	4	2	6
Heart Disease	14	11	25
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	1	3
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	0	1
Appendicitis	1	-	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	-	1
Nephritis	3	2	5
Premature Birth	3	1	4
Congenital Malformations etc.	2	1	3
Violence	2	1	3
All other Causes	4	6	10
All Causes	59	42	101

SECTION. B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA:

Laboratory Facilities:-

Facilities for clinical and Sanitary laboratory investigations are provided by the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at the County Offices, Hereford, under the direction of Dr. R. Ewart Jones. This is of great value to the Department in the investigation of many matters affecting the Public Health.

The following table shows the number of examinations carried out by the Laboratory at the request of your Department:-

Water - Bacteriological Examination	20
Chemical Examination	Nil
Swabs	148
Sputum	2
Milk	1

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA:

Water:-

The water supplies of the District are provided by a series of small piped supplies and to a large extent by individual private shallow wells. The Local Authority has provided water schemes in the parishes of Longtown, Clifford and Dorstone. In addition, there are a few small private piped supplies, these utilise small springs. Many dwellings are provided with individual wells. There are also a few public wells.

Owing to the large number of separate supplies it is difficult to exercise close supervision of the quality of the water used. During this dry year, a number of wells and one piped supply failed to give an adequate supply. There were also signs that the Clifford Parish Scheme was feeling the strain of the prolonged drought. Conservation measures had to be taken and transport of water was necessary in parts of the District.

The waters used are hard waters and appear to have no solvent action upon metals.

The number of samples of water sent for laboratory examination was:-

Chemical Examination ...	Nil
Bacteriological Examination	20

More adequate water supplies would be of great benefit to the District but such schemes are bound to be expensive.

Drainage and Sewerage:-

There are no public sewers in the District but the Air Ministry have provided private sewers and disposal works in connection with the aerodrome at Madley.

During the year, difficulty was encountered in connection with the septic tank and drainage of the Council's dwellings at Ewyas Harold. A complete new scheme was found to be necessary in order to abate nuisance. This will be provided as soon as the Local Authority is able to commence the building operations required.

A somewhat similar difficulty occurred in connection with the dwellings at Wellbrookside, Peterchurch. Ultimately a new scheme will be necessary but this cannot be undertaken until electricity for pumping purposes can be obtained. Electricity in rural areas is the most useful service as it is often the means of providing a proper water supply.

During the year 15 existing drains were relaid and 11 new drains were constructed by the action of the Department.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA:

Inspections:-

Slaughterhouses and Shops	...	...	...	160
Bakchouses	...	...	...	12
Schools	...	...	...	12
Water Supplies	...	...	...	130
Nuisances	...	...	...	35
Factories	...	...	...	35
Fruit and Hop-pickers Accommodation	...	...	...	80
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	48
Housing consolidated Regulations 1925	...	...	...	312
Other Housing Inspections	...	...	...	44
Cow Sheds and Dairies	...	...	...	203
Petrol and Oil Stores	...	...	...	25
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	1,829
Salvage	...	...	...	--
Milk Samples	...	...	...	104
Water Samples	...	...	...	29
Rats and Mice Survey	...	...	...	11
Disinfestations	...	...	...	21
				<u>3,090</u>

Notices Issued:-

Informal	...	...	...	22
Statutory re Housing	...	...	...	Nil
Statutory under Other Acts	...	...	...	2

24

Summary of Defects Remedied:-

Drains Relaid	...	...	...	15
New Irrigation Ditch	...	...	...	11
Drains Cleansed, Trapped or Ventilated	...	...	...	7
Defective Waste Pipes Rectified	...	...	...	12
Defective Sinks and Urinals Rectified	...	...	...	--
New Water Closets provided	...	...	...	16
Water Closets Repaired Etc.	...	...	...	7
Privies Converted to Pail Closets	...	...	...	4
Privies Converted to Water Closets	...	...	...	2
Privies Converted to Chemical Closets	...	...	...	5
New Pail Closets provided	...	...	...	--
				<u>79</u>

Summary of Defects Remedied (contd.):-

Bt. Pwd.	79
Pail Closets Repaired	21
Privies and Ashpits Cleansed	--
Wells Cleansed and Repaired	3
Rooms Disinfected re Infectious Disease ...	71
Schools Disinfected	1
Public Vehicles Disinfected	--
Dwelling Houses Cleansed	3
	<u>178</u>

School Closures:-

There were no school closures during the year.

SECTION D. HOUSING:

Construction of the six cottages erected under the Emergency Rural Housing Scheme was completed. There are two of these cottages in each of the Parishes of Kilpeck, Peterchurch and Kingstone.

The Council gave consideration to the housing needs of the District and prepared to build further dwellings in a number of parishes.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year:-

1. (a) Total number of Houses Inspected for Housing Defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) 342
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 354
2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of Defective Dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 6
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-

Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice

 - (a) By Owners 1
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD:Milk Supply:-

There were 395 premises in the District registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

Food Inspected and Condemned:-

Beef	213 lbs.
Tinned Milk	188 Tins.
Tinned Fish	11 Tins.
Cheese	4 lbs.
Ham	26 lbs.
Meat	27 lbs.
Oranges	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.
Bacon	200 lbs.

SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

Notifiable Disease:-

The inhabitants of the District remained relatively free from infectious disease during the year, for only 48 notifications were received. The most prevalent infection was Scarlet Fever, 21 cases occurred and of these 16 occurred in the Parish of Bredwardine. This infection was most probably brought to the District by a visitor from London and caused a small outbreak in one part of the Parish. By means of energetic swabbing and examination of contacts which revealed two missed cases, it was possible to prevent extension of the disease to other parts of the District.

Only two cases of diphtheria occurred, one patient being an adult and the second a female child of six years old who had not received any prophylactic injections.

Infectious disease was insignificant as a cause of death as only three deaths were certified to be due to pneumonia and one to be due to influenza.

Notifiable Disease During Year 1944.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	21	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Measles	10	--
Whooping Cough	7	--
Diphtheria	2	2
Pneumonia	4	--
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1

Notifiable Disease According to Age during Year 1944.

Disease.	Age Groups.												Totals.
	Un-der 1	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	2	2	9	-	1	1	3	1	-	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	10
Whooping Cough	2	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Totals	4	3	3	3	3	16	-	1	8	4	1	2	48

Scabies:-

There were eleven cases of scabies brought to the notice of the Department during the year which were ultimately cleared after treatment in the home. This number probably is not the true incidence of the disease and it is probable that scabies will remain in the population until adequate water supplies, bathrooms and proper washing facilities are generally available in the dwellings in the District, with a consequent improvement in the general cleanliness of the population. Scabies appears to be most prevalent in families of doubtful cleanliness but this is often, at least in part, due to obsolete housing which lacks modern amenities.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Throughout the year this work was continued and 130 children under 15 years of age were given complete courses of diphtheria prophylactic. At the end of the year it was estimated that 34% of the child population under 5 years of age and 57% of the children aged 5 - 15 years had received complete courses of diphtheria prophylactic. The number of children who have not received prophylactic is still far too large. Efforts to improve these figures are very necessary.

The following table gives the result of the work of the year:-

Age Group.	1 - 5 Years.	5 - 15 Years.	Total.
Prophylactic	A.P.T.	A.P.T. T.A.F.	
Children Immunised	107	19 4	130

Tuberculosis:-

At the end of 1943 there were 29 cases of tuberculosis on the Register, 19 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary. During the year 1944 17 cases were added to the Register, 14 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary. Thirteen cases were removed from the Register during the year, 11 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary, and on the 31st. December 1944, 33 cases remained on the Register, 22 pulmonary and 11 non-pulmonary.

New Cases and Mortality during Year 1944:-

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15+	5	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
25+	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35+	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
45+	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	9	5	1	2	3	1	1	-

